

FOREIGN CRIMINAL

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CRITICISM

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Criticism of Abraham Lincoln

Foreign Criticism

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

An English Journal's Estimate of Lincoln Before His Election

Under the caption, "The Candidate for President," a then popular London, England, Magazine, "Vanity Fair", in 1860 gave the following estimate of Lincoln, recently reproduced by The Golden Book Magazine, "which in the same issue reproduced "Punch's" tribute to Lincoln after his death.

"He is a characterless candidate, supported by an aimless party. . . Lincoln possesses certain characteristics, which, if there is any power in newspaper fun, will go far toward defeating him.

"First. He is known by the tenderly-affectionate soubriquet of "Old Uncle Abe"—a good title for the Chief Magistrate of North America. Further, he is a longitudinal person with a shambling gait—a physical formation termed "slab-sided" in the Eastern states. Then he delivered a course of "lectures"—stump

speeches in disguise—not long ago, through this region of the country, and charged twenty-five cents admission thereunto. If he ever gets clear of the name "Two-Shilling Candidate" it will be very singular. He was defeated in a political contest in 1852, by Douglas—a significant fact, should the Little Giant be nominated at Baltimore. He opposed the Mexican War, thereby showing a sort of contempt for the Spirit of '76, the Bird, and other Fourth of July Deities. He threatened to "go over to the banks of the Ohio and throw missiles over into Kentucky, to disturb their institutions there." He has a thin, almost nasal voice, and his grammar is not so far above suspicion as Caesar's wife is reported to have been. These are about all the things that are known of him, good, bad, or indifferent, so far as the great voting mass goes."

Truefat Journal 8-27-29

MORE OF "COL." McCLELLAN'S HISTORY.

From the Philadelphia Times.

It is doubtless forgotten by some who may have forgotten it long ago, and has probably not been heard of by a large majority of those now living, that Edwin M. Stanton, the great war minister of our history, once deliberately suggested that Lincoln be deposed from the presidency to entail on Gen. McClellan as military dictator. Lincoln knew it when he called Stanton to the war portfolio; but Stanton was wiser then than before and he was called to his great office because he was needed there. Few remember or have ever learned that General Hooker also once advised that Lincoln should be deposed for a military dictator, but only a year or so thereafter Lincoln called Hooker to the chief command of the Army of the Potomac, not because—as Lincoln said in notifying Hooker of his assignment—he had advised revolution, but rather in spite of it. How General McClellan vexed Lincoln; how he hurled the bitterest denunciations against him from the headquarters of his defeated army, and how he became the central figure of military and political faction organized to overthrow Lincoln, are well-known matters of history. How Generals Hunter and Fremont declared their insubordination by untimely, irritating and most perilous proclamations of freedom to slaves, in obedience to the intense radical partisan sentiment that assailed the administration, is known to the readers of history, but there are few now living who can measure the fearful complications these acts put upon Lincoln.

SEVERAL THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

From the Utica Herald.

The Atlanta, Ga., Constitution is moved by the "enthusiastic reception accorded Robert Lincoln in England" to remark: "How public opinion changes! Twenty-five years ago the English people were sneering at Abraham Lincoln and ridiculing his low origin and backwoods manners." 5-24-80

Our Atlanta contemporary need not go so far away for illustration of the change, it mentions. It need not go farther than its own files. There is not a Democratic paper South or North whose columns from 1860 to 1866 did not teem with sneers or vile abuse of Abraham Lincoln. "Abe the ape," "Lincoln the baboon," the "mudsill," "rail-splitter," "murderer," "constitution violator," "backwoodsman," etc. Public opinion has changed in England, but England never descended to the depths in which the Democrats of the United States reveled. Lincoln, Grant, Sheridan, every one was decorated with Democratic epithets. To-day taking their present words for it, one would think the Democrats always loved, sustained and followed the martyr President and his heroic captains and stood for the preservation of the Union and liberation of the slave.

But Dutch Envoy Changed His Mind

"Pitiful, Weak, Vulgar" --One View Of Lincoln

By United Press International

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—It took Abraham Lincoln almost all the years he was President to win over the Dutch ambassador who first tabbed him as a lout, it was disclosed yesterday from historical papers.

The ambassador didn't like the United States, either. He called this country "backward and passive."

Theodorus Marinus Roest van Limburg, the ambassador, used such words for Lincoln as "ill-mannered, pitiful, weak, unstatesmanlike, highly insignificant, sly, vulgar."

He said Lincoln told vulgar jokes.

The ambassador's early feelings of the then new President

(Editorial, "Lincoln—Optimistic About Democracy," Page 4).

were revealed in an article in the current issue of the "Journal of The Illinois Historical Society" authored by a history teacher at the Lyseum of Wassenaar, the Netherlands.

The article is based on reports sent back by Roest van Limburg to his superiors at The Hague.

The article said the ambassador changed his opinion later and wrote back after Lincoln was assassinated:

"A terrible murder bereft the country of its ruler just at the time one might have expected beneficial fruits of his work. More and more people esteemed, loved and trusted him. Gener-

ally, people acknowledged his personal honesty, well-meaning moderation and indulgence.

"It is well known that the President . . . would make the return of the South to the union as easy as possible. One knows little that is reassuring about the new President, Johnson."

The author, Dr. J. W. Schulte Nordholt, said the ambassador early took a gloomy view of the President and his administration.

In one of his reports Roest Van Limburg wrote about Lincoln on his way to Washington to assume the presidency.

He said Lincoln "is everywhere delivering 'speeches' which do not testify of wisdom, neither of talent. The narrow-minded opinions of the former railway-worker are full of party spirit and are causing uneasiness."

The Confederate High Command

WHY A U.K. DIVISION ?

The Division was the first of it's kind in the United Kingdom, and became the parent body of various organisations that were formed by breakaway elements who wished to engage in re-enactment activities or study groups with a more general view of the period. We almost certainly inspired the formation of the present day "Roundhead and Cavalier" societies and other historical groups. However the Division remains today the only organisation in the British Isles formally dedicated to the preservation of Southern heritage, and the guardians of the honour of those Britishers and British born who in various ways supported the 'Cause'; for if the cause was unworthy then so were our nationals for espousing it.

Who were these supporters ? Once it became clear that the Lincoln administration's war aims were not the liberation of negro slaves, but the retention by force of the Union, and that to achieve their purpose all basic human rights were to be suspended, and a campaign of destruction, confiscation and brutality to be compounded later by mass deportation of civilian populations, and the maltreatment and neglect of Confederate Prisoners of War resulting in the death of 12% of those held including with cruel irony-a number of negro slaves accompanying the Confederate Army.

It should hardly be surprising that not only Gladstone and many other leading politicians, but the majority of the British people appear to have supported the South's struggle for independence. They invested more than \$ 60 million dollars in Confederate Bonds-an enormous sum for those times. Thousands of pounds were raised to aid suffering Confederate prisoners of war, and when at last the struggle was over and the South was compelled to endure the agonies of "Reconstruction": Britain was required, by an international tribunal to pay more than \$ 15 million in gold to the Federal Government as compensation for our involvement on the side of the South.

The Division has always found itself fighting a lonely campaign here against ignorance and it's handmaiden bigotry, but that is why we have a U.K. Division.

5/89

BRITISH CONNECTION

SIR FREDERICK BRUCE son of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine was appointed "Minister to Washington" and had occasion to report on the Lincoln/Johnson administration as follows. Far worse was to befall the South once all resistance was crushed.

In a private note to Foreign Secretary Lord John Russell, he gave an unflattering description of the state of civil liberties in the United States at that moment; as the comment of an unbiased observer on a matter that is commonly treated with a great deal of bias, it deserves quotation in full:

There is no relaxation of arbitrary power in this country. The Govt., acting through the military authority, arrests anyone it pleases, brings him to trial or not as it suits it, and detains him as long as it pleases. Witnesses are kept in prison till required to give evidence . . . without being admitted to bail; and as the jurisdiction of the State Courts is overridden, there is no appeal except to the War Department. . . . In fact personal liberty is at an end throughout the Northern States, and as long as the War Party, which is in the ascendant, professes and considers this power necessary to the National safety, there is no reason to suppose it will terminate . . . individual rights have no foundation here except in the Will of the Majority. . . . If, as is likely, the feelings of the North and South become more embittered, the future condition of residents, foreign and native, will be far worse than it has hitherto been.

A week later, in another private note to the foreign secretary,

All I can do at present is to try and effect the release of British subjects who on various pretexts have been seized by the Military Authorities . . . I try to have their cases enquired into by the War Dept. in the hope that any favorable circumstances may be considered and lead to their release. But it depends entirely on the humor of the officer referred to what is done in these cases, for Martial Law as administered here is really no Law at all, and the feeling against foreigners who have served . . . in the South is so strong as to make a fair trial almost hopeless. Their cases require great delicacy in handling, for to insinuate unfairness on the part of the officers composing these Military Commissions would render the execution of a sentence only the more certain. The certainty now felt of suppressing the insurrection inclines the people against leniency where a foreigner is concerned, and the Govt. will not openly thwart the popular sentiment in that respect.

and later wrote

The upholder of Mr. Stanton and his Reign of Terror are the Black Republican party. . . . This party are conscious that their policy and ideas are repugnant to the great majority of the American people both in the North and in the South. Partly from fanaticism, partly from love of power, these men are ready to stifle free expression of opinion and to suppress the constitutional guarantees of liberty. . . . In the North they seek to justify the continuance of martial law by bringing forward witnesses who swear to the continued existence of plots and conspiracies to burn Northern cities and assassinate Northern statesmen.

THE CONFEDERATE HIGH COMMAND INTERNATIONAL U.K. DIVISION

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Jordan, Commander, reports that his organization was the first in the United Kingdom and was formed in 1960

"not just to study or portray the Southern Confederacy but to preserve and protect the honour of the Southern Confederacy, and in so doing to cherish the memory of our own nationals who supported, and in some cases fought for, the cause of Southern Independence."

His organization conducts an excellent Research Service on Confederate History, holds annual Confederate Memorial Day services in England, and publishes a quarterly 24 page magazine *"The International Confederate"* which is entirely devoted to Confederate history.

Gen. Jordan reports that members who wanted to concentrate on staging re-enactments of battles of the War Between the States, withdrew and formed the Southern Skirmisher's Association which re-enacts such battles on English fields. Gen. Jordan also reports that the Confederate Historical Society of Great Britain is an off-shoot of his organization.

Gen. Jordan commands both the European Theatre and the U.K. Division of The Confederate High Command International. If you would like to join his association and receive their very interesting quarterly magazine, send your check for \$ to:

Gen. Donald J. Jordan
29, Grierson Close
Calne, Wiltshire
SN11 8JJ United Kingdom

Having recently joined The Confederate High Command International, U.K. Division, I can recommend it.

Dean Boggs

Past Commander in Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans.

MAJOR GRAHAM DAVES SOCIETY OF ALABAMA
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS.



One European Confederate organization has its headquarters in Calne, Wiltshire, United Kingdom, and is known as the Confederate High Command, United Kingdom Division. Founded in 1960, the CHC fights ignorance and bigotry as it works to preserve and protect the Southern Confederacy and to guard the honor of British subjects who in various ways supported the cause of Southern Independence. Their motto is "History Preserved Through Knowledge Shared" and under the leadership of Commander Donald J. Jordan and the printing of the newsletter THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATE, the motto is lived up to. Among its activities, the CHC is interested in the raising of the CSS Alabama; the defending of the good name of the CSS Alabama from those who would brand her as a slave ship; Confederate Memorial Day programs, conducting a research service on Confederate History, and the effort to obtain a Confederate Medal of Honor for British national Dr. David H. Llewellyn, Surgeon of the CSS Alabama.

We salute the efforts of the CHC and other related organizations and wish continued success for them. Individuals who would like to communicate with Commander Jordan may do so by using the following address: Commander Donald J. Jordan, Confederate High Command, U. K. Division, 29 Grierson Close, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8JJ, United Kingdom.

By air mail
Par avion

Perry Outlaw

Perry Outlaw
Commander
F. Buchanan Chapter, M



'What Does The C.H.C. Do?'

Save The Flag!

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